



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,376	07/24/2003	Robert S. Greeff	7267.57226-A-RE	2506
20311 7590 07/29/2009 LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP 475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH 15TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016				
EXAMINER				
LAVINDER, JACK W				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3677				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/20/2009		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

info@lmiplaw.com

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/626,376

**Applicant(s)**

GREEFF, ROBERT S.

**Examiner**

Jack W. Lavinder

**Art Unit**

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/309)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

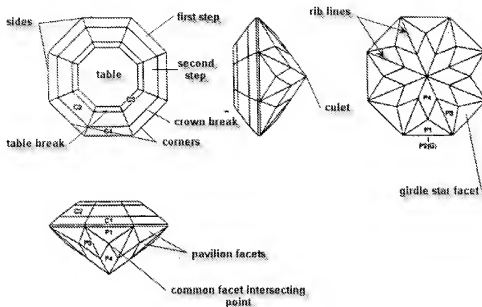
The finality of the last office action has been withdrawn and the after-final response received on 7/9/2009 has been entered and considered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

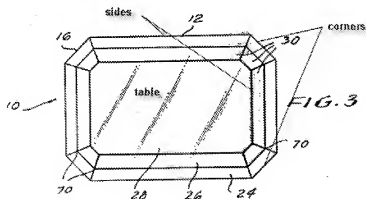
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over non-Patent literature reference, Gram Faceting Designs (GFD) in view of Grossbard, 4020649. GFD discloses a mixed cut diamond (step cut on the crown and brilliant cut on the pavilion. GFD's stone is octagonal in shape with corner crown lengths equal to corner side lengths and four table corner lengths equal to four table side lengths. The pavilion has a culet point with eight rib lines extending in a straight line from the girdle to the culet. The crown also comprises at least two steps with a flat table (see annotated figure). The number and shape of the facets on the pavilion as defined in the claims are shown in GFD.



The claims recite that the corner lengths of the crown and table are substantially less than the side lengths of the crown and table. GFD discloses the lengths to be the same.

Grossbard, 4020649, discloses a mixed-cut gemstone having corner lengths less than the side lengths of the table and crown.



The applicant's change in the shape of the stone is considered to be for ornamental purposes only, i.e., nothing unexpected in the fire, scintillation, brilliance or dispersion in the gemstone was achieved by the change in shape of the gemstone. Therefore, it would have been an obvious design choice to make GFD's stone into the shape of Grossbard's stone in order to change the aesthetical appearance of the stone.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 7/9/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The declarations under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 7/9/2009 are insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1-23 based upon Gram Faceting Designs in view of Grossbard, 4020649. The declarant disagrees with the examiner's 103 combination of references. The declarant opines in section 11 of the declaration that one in the gemstone art would not just combine facet arrangements of one existing design with another without a specific reason. Every gemstone cutter has a specific reason for cutting the stone a certain way, i.e., to achieve a beautiful, marketable, brilliant gemstone. The declarant states this very fact in section 11: "Each gemstone design is made for a particular purpose to carry out the designer's intent on achieving his desired balance of brilliance, dispersion, and scintillation, taking into account the RI and crystal structure of the stone as well as many other factors." Clearly, it is known that the goal in cutting a gemstone is to produce an appealing stone that can be successfully marketed to consumers with an eye for that type of stone style. Therefore, a gemstone cutter has the motivation to look at other gemstone styles to determine the style of stone that would be successful in

the current market. The gemstone cutter then sets out to cut the stones to produce a look that would be successful in the marketplace.

The applicant has the burden to prove that their stone is producing an unexpected brilliance, fire, dispersion, and scintillation due to the shape, number, orientation and size of the facets being claimed. It is agreed that the facets on a gemstone perform the function of changing the incidence light and redirecting the light to produce the fire, scintillation, brilliance and dispersion of the gemstone. However, this has been known, done and achieved by the prior art. In order to consider that the change in shape of the gemstone is patentable, the applicant must provide scientific proof that an unexpected increase in brilliance, fire, scintillation or dispersion of the gemstone was achieved by the specific shape, number or orientation of the facets on the gemstone. This is not a new requirement in showing novelty. If the newly claimed device only changes the shape of the device, an unexpected result must be achieved in order for that change-in-shape to be considered patentable subject matter. In this application, the applicant has only changed the shape of the facets and their orientations on the gemstone and nothing more than a novel aesthetical shape of gemstone has been achieved.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack W. Lavinder whose telephone number is 571-272-7119. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 9-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on 571-272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jack W Lavinder/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677